

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 287

To celebrate the 500th anniversary of the first use of the name “America”,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HOYER, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

To celebrate the 500th anniversary of the first use of the
name “America”, and for other purposes.

Whereas Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci was born in
1454 and traveled across the Atlantic Ocean 4 times be-
tween 1497 and 1504;

Whereas during his second voyage to the Western Hemi-
sphere in 1499, Amerigo Vespucci realized that the land
Christopher Columbus discovered in 1492 was not India
but a new continent;

Whereas cartographer Martin Waldseemüller, a member of
the research group Gymnasium Vosagense in Saint-Dié,
France, first used the word “America” in his world map,
which first appeared in public on April 25, 1507, and de-

scribed the newly discovered Western Hemisphere as separated by the Pacific and Atlantic oceans;

Whereas Waldseemüller chose to honor Amerigo Vespucci by naming the new continent with Vespucci's name even while Vespucci was alive;

Whereas Waldseemüller described this decision in his "Cosmographiae Introductio", the book that accompanied the map, by writing, "I see no reason why anyone should justly object to calling this part ... America, after Amerigo [Vespucci], its discoverer, a man of great ability."; and

Whereas April 25, 2007, will be the 500th anniversary of this first public use of the word "America", which now serves as the root of the names of 2 continents: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) celebrates the 500th anniversary of the first
3 use of the name "America" to describe areas in the
4 Western Hemisphere;

5 (2) honors the explorations of Amerigo Vespucci
6 and other navigators who contributed to the discovery of the Western Hemisphere;

8 (3) acknowledges the significance of Martin
9 Waldseemüller's 1507 map of the world and accompanying book, "Cosmographiae Introductio", which
10 forever changed the accepted geographical view of
11 the world and first officially used the name "America"; and
13

1 (4) encourages the inhabitants of all countries
2 of the Western Hemisphere who have the privilege to
3 share this great name “America” to join with the
4 House of Representatives and citizens of the United
5 States of America in this historic celebration.

